

Picea Breweriana Wats.

I wish to report that, on a recent trip, I saw the Brewer Spruce on the north slope of Little Grayback, Josephine County, Oregon. This point is much further north than the point where, you will recall, we located the trees on the pass above the Oscar Beer Ranch on the Expedition of 1908. On Little Grayback was found a tree that I consider a perfect specimen of *Picea Breweriana*. It was not growing on the cliffs, but at the edge of the regular forest in deep soil. With its veil of "weepers", I thought it was the most beautiful tree I have ever had the pleasure of seeing in our forests. The Little Grayback is the dividing mountain between Deer Creek and Little Grayback Creek, and constitutes the most northerly spur of the Siskiyou range.—JAMES DAVIS, Oct. 7, 1929.

New stations for trees in Oregon.

In August, 1917, I found *Cupressus Macnabiana* well established on Sterr Peak, 5809 ft., and on one or two adjacent peaks in Josephine County, Oregon, and have a specimen of *Chamaecyparis Nootkatisensis* from Whiskey Peak, Josephine County, Oregon, three miles from the California line, so that you see we may yet find it south of the line and thus add one more arborescent species to your California list.

I have found *Populus tremuloides Vancouveriana* very scattering but well established in the Willamette Valley. It had previously passed for the species which does not occur west of the Cascade Mountains. Most of the variety has now been exterminated by the settlers in clearing the land.—MARTIN W. GORMAN, Portland, Ore., Oct. 19, 1919.

THE DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY.

Botany at Stanford University is represented by a group of eight men, five of whom are technically the Department of Botany, and three Professors or Assistant Professors of Biology. These are respectively Dr. Douglas H. Campbell, now Emeritus but actively working in the laboratory, Dr. L. R. Abrams, Curator of the Dudley Herbarium and Professor of Systematic Botany, Dr. Gilbert M. Smith, morphologist, algologist, and anatomist, Associate Professor James I. W. McMurphy, plant pathologist, Professor Geo. J. Peirce, physiologist; and Dr. L. B. Becking, cellular physiologist, Dr. L. L. Burlingame, geneticist, and Dr. A. G. Vestal, ecologist. To this list should be added the names of three Lecturers in Botany, Mr. Samuel B. Parish,¹ systematist and collector of the Parish Herbarium, Mr. William F. Wight, plant breeder, of the U. S. Department of Agri-

¹ Deceased June 5, 1928.

culture, and Dr. William A. Cannon, physiologist, formerly of the Carnegie Institution of Washington; and of Mrs. Roxana S. Ferris who, as Assistant in the Dudley Herbarium, gives help to every student of the Pacific flora who has occasion to use the Dudley Herbarium, and whose published work on the local and more distant floras is well known. The present personnel is the product of the ideas and ideals of Dr. Campbell and the late Professor Dudley. One may conceive a group of botanists concentrating on one or two or a few lines and, assuming ability and industry, making a correspondingly impressive contribution to the science; and one may imagine another group composed of men of diverse interests but united by one common interest—the study of plants—who will touch human life at just so many more points, and who will impress their students and the rest of the world with the corresponding breadth and importance of botanical science, which their contributions will tend to keep plastic and growing.

What should be the ideals of a University group of botanists? Should they regard their function chiefly as that of contributors to knowledge as forming an academy of science or as the distributors of knowledge already and elsewhere acquired? And should they, any more than any other citizens of a commonwealth, indulge their own tastes without consideration of the relative values of different kinds of results in the cooperative society of which they are members, and from the success of which their own comfort and even existence depend?—GEO. J. PEIRCE.

ORDINANCES PROTECTING NATIVE PLANTS.

During the last year ordinances were passed in both San Diego and San Bernardino counties which prohibit the collecting of certain wild plants growing in those counties. In both ordinances nearly all species of cactus are named, as well as a number of species of herbaceous and shrubby plants. As a result of the activities of nurserymen and landscape gardeners of southern California who collect the cacti by truck-loads, some of the rarer species of cactus are bordering on extinction and other species which were once abundant are becoming rare. The San Diego ordinance was enacted after many of the plants of *Agave shawii*, growing at the type locality of the species had been carried off and many other plants had been left up-rooted to die. Among the desert shrubs that the ordinances aim to protect are *Ocotillo* (*Fouquieria splendens*), *Desert Holly* (*Atriplex hymenelytra*), and *Smoke Tree* (*Parosela spinosa*). The Samuel B. Parish Botanical Society of Riverside and San Bernardino has advocated the passage of an ordinance in Riverside County similar to the ordinances of San Diego and San Bernardino counties. Such an ordinance would protect the remarkable growth of cactus known as the Devil's Garden near the east entrance of the San Gorgonio